

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing resources in a system, the method comprising:
 - determining a demand for a service;
 - determining an attribute of the system; and
 - provisioning a resource for the service based on the demand and the attribute.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute comprises a demand for at least one other service sharing the resources.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the resources comprise at least one software server, and wherein the attribute comprises a software status of the at least one software server.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the resources comprise at least one software server, and wherein the attribute comprises a cache state of the at least one software server.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute comprises a time period required to provision at least one of the resources for the service.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute comprises a load on the image system.

7. A method of managing resources in a system, the method comprising:
 - determining a first demand for a service in the system;
 - determining a set of attributes of the system, wherein the set of attributes comprises: a load on an image system, a load on a network used by the image system and an software server, and a second demand for at least one other service sharing the system; and
 - provisioning a resource for the service based on the first demand and the set of attributes.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising determining a time period for the first demand, wherein the provisioning is further based on the time period.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of attributes further comprises at least one of: a software status, a cache state, and a load on the software server.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of attributes further comprises a time period required to provision a resource for the service.

11. A system for managing resources in a system, the system comprising:
 - a demand system for determining a demand for a service;
 - an attribute system for determining an attribute of the system; and
 - a provisioning system for provisioning a resource for the service based on the demand and the attribute.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the resources comprise a plurality of software servers for hosting the service.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the attribute comprises at least one of: a software state, a cache state, and a load on at least one of the plurality of software servers.
14. The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises an image server for provisioning resources for the service.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein the attribute comprises a load on the image server.
16. The system of claim 11, wherein the attribute comprises a demand for at least one other service sharing the resources.

17. A program product stored on a recordable medium for managing resources in a system, which when executed comprises:
 - program code for determining a first demand for a service in the system;
 - program code for determining a second demand for at least one other service sharing the system; and
 - program code for provisioning a resource for the service based on the first demand and the second demand.
18. The program product of claim 17, further comprising program code for determining an attribute of at least one resource in the system.
19. The program product of claim 17, further comprising program code for determining an attribute of a network for the resources.
20. The program product of claim 17, further comprising program code for determining an attribute of an image server.